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Scientology

Kissinger Defendant

Scientologists Sue State Department

By William Willoughby
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Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the State Department have been sued for \$40 million in federal court by the Church of Scientology on the grounds that the department has repeatedly disseminated false information about the church in the United States and abroad.

The action, filed in Los Angeles today, charges that the State Department has infringed the right of the church's ministers and some of its students to travel abroad freely, to enjoy the right of privacy and to enjoy the free exercise of religion without government interference.

Jeff Friedman, chairman of the church's National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice, said that "flagrant and damaging false reports" have been circulated for a number of years by the State Department to embassies, ambassadors and consuls and to officers and agents of several foreign countries.

"AS A RESULT of the dissemination of false information," Friedman said, "traveling Scientology ministers have been harassed by foreign countries."

He charged that one such report had a handmarked distribution of 20 copies to the CIA, plus 110 copies to 16 other agencies such as the FBI, the National Security Council, the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The Church of Scientology, which has its international headquarters in East Grinstead, England, and its American headquarters in Los Angeles, has been the object of scorn and opposition in the United States and several other countries, its leaders believe, because it has been outspoken against abuses to the freedom and welfare of individuals.

IT HAS BEEN outspoken in its criticism of treatment of mental patients, and it launched a major campaign against collection procedures used by the Internal Revenue Service.

In recent months, learning that it was on the "dirty tricks" list of the CIA and the "enemies list" of the IRS, the church began using the Freedom of Information law to obtain documents referring to the church from government agencies.

Arthur Maren, the group's minister of public affairs in the United States, said the church "will file more than \$1 billion in lawsuits" against domestic and foreign agencies if they do not correct the false reports and stop disseminating them.

Scientologists believe they have developed a clinical technique and a moral system that can bring mankind into harmony with itself and its surroundings. They have extensive programs on drug rehabilitation.